

Weekly Column for July 5, 2007

The 4th of July has come and gone, in an expected quick fashion. I hope everyone had a great holiday, even if the weather did not want to cooperate.

We gave notice through many different outlets earlier this week that we were going to be extremely tough on those using illegal fireworks this week, and the early results have been interesting.

This morning I was on my way to work listening to a local radio host talk about the City being wrong for cracking down on fireworks, because it is a Fourth of July tradition. Of course I knew when I got in that there would be e-mails alerting us to the fact that enforcement was not strong enough.

As I drove around the City last night, it was clear to me that fireworks are still a problem, though not as bad as last year in many spots. I would like to think that was a result of people wising up to the fact that they are dangerous, but I'm guessing it had more to do with the warning from police and bad weather. Despite the warnings that we would be arresting anyone we saw in possession with fireworks, we still ended up arresting 36 people last night.

In an effort to keep peace throughout the weekend, we will continue to have extra patrols out in the street over the course of the next few days to crackdown on this nuisance. I know that most people are only trying to have some fun, but if it is disruptive to the neighborhood, it should not take place.

This Saturday night we have a few activities taking place that everyone should try and check out, and only one involves fireworks. First up is the Opening Night of the Powers Park Concert Series. Country Night takes the stage first, with the North 40 Band performing. Should be a great time. For those of you that don't know, Powers Park is located in Lansingburgh, and will have concerts every Saturday night beginning at 7 p.m. right through until Labor Day.

If country music isn't your thing, come on over to the Joe and check out some fireworks and fisticuffs. That's right, professional boxing is making a return to the outdoors of the Capital District, with an 8-fight card that gets underway at 7 p.m. There will be fireworks during the evening, a championship bout between two highly regarded females, and Troy's own Shannon Miller. I will be over there Saturday, and it should be a tremendous time.

If you are interested in going, tickets are available from Pugnacious Promotions or at the Joe Bruno Stadium box office, you can call 518-326-9756, or visit www.pugnaciouspromotions.com for more information.

I hope everyone has a great weekend!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy